

DATE

Craig Frosch
Usry & Weeks
1615 Poydras Street, Suite 1250
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Re: **Louisiana Board of Ethics**
Docket No. 2020-844

Dear Mr. Frosch,

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its meeting on January 8, 2021, considered your request for an advisory opinion on behalf of Ouachita Parish Sheriff Jay Russell as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") would prohibit the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office ("OPSO") from using Monograms Unlimited for embroidery services.

FACTS PROVIDED

For years, the OPSO has utilized Monograms Unlimited for embroidery services to affix nameplates, badge replicas, and other insignia on uniform shirts and other OPSO gear. Monograms Unlimited has provided services for all divisions within OPSO, including the Patrol Division. Erin Miller has recently acquired 100% ownership interest in Monograms Unlimited. Erin Miller is married to Brandon Miller, who is employed by OPSO as a Deputy in the Patrol Division.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1113A: No public servant or member of such a public servant's immediate family, or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant. La. R.S. 42:11020(13) defines "immediate family member" to include a public servant's spouse. La. R.S. 42:1102(8) defines "controlling interest" to mean any ownership in any legal entity or beneficial interest in a trust, held by or on behalf of an individual or a member of his immediate family, either individually or collectively, which exceeds twenty-five percent of that legal entity.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that Section 1113A would prohibit Erin Miller and Monograms Unlimited from contracting with OPSO or entering into any transactions to provide compensated services to the OPSO Patrol Division while her

husband, Brandon Miller, is employed in the OPSO Patrol Division. This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800)842-6630 or (225)219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

David M. Bordelon
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.